

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05  
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-----041912 242337Z /45

O 242305Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1848  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4220

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FOURIE'S REACTION TO WESTERN FIVE'S  
RESPONSE TO VORSTER ON WALVIS BAY

REF: (A) STATE 186256, (B) PRETORIA 4219

1. IN READING THROUGH AIDE MEMOIRE (REF B) CONTAINING CONTACT GROUP'S INTERIM RESPONSE TO VORSTER'S LETTER OF 23 JULY, FOURIE NOTED THE STATEMENT (LAST SENTENCE, PARA 4) THAT THE RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY IMPLIES THAT WALVIS BAY IS NOT AT PRESENT PART OF NAMIBIA AND WILL REMAIN IN THIS CONDITION UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AFTER NAMIBIA, THEN REMARKED THAT THE RESOLUTION PREDETERMINED THE OUTCOME OF SUCH  
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RESOLUTIONS. IN A SECOND READING HE FOCUSSED ON THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 AND COMMENTED THAT THE SAG STANDS BY ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE NAMIBIA PROPOSAL ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE WEST STANDS BY ITS COMMITMENTS.

2. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF ENSUING DISCUSSION TO MAKE POINTS IN PARAS 4 AND 5 OF REF (A), BUT FOUND FOURIE UNMOVED BY ARGUMENTS

THAT WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION DID NOT PREJUDICE SAG LEGAL CLAIMS. REPEATEDLY, FOURIE SAID WE COULD NOT CONVINCE THE SAG THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. REPEATEDLY, HE MADE THE POINT THAT VORSTER HAD STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE WOULD TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS IF WALVIS BAY WERE TO BE DRAGGED INTO THE PROCESS. SEVERAL TIMES HE SAID "IN ALL SINCERITY" THAT HE THOUGHT WE HAD COME TO THE END OF THE ROAD AND WERE SIMPLY WASTING OUR TIME DISCUSSING THE MATTER.

3. NONETHELESS, FOURIE WAS FRIENDLY, IF FIRM, THROUGHOUT, AND ON THE MATTER IN HAND SAID HE WOULD REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER OUR HOPE THAT THEY NOT GO AHEAD WITH PUBLICATION OF THE VORSTER LETTER. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY DO SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD STILL BE SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE MORNING IN NEW YORK. HE COULD ONLY RECOMMEND THAT THEY CONSIDER OUR PRESENTATION; HE COULD NOT HONESTLY HOLD OUT ANY HOPE FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE SAG POSITION.

4. ALTHOUGH FOURIE REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO POSITIONS OR ATTITUDES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, IT SEEMED QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WAS ACTUALLY REFLECTING THE VERY PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS ENRAGED BY THE WESTERN DECISION TO TAKE A POSITION IN SUPPORT OF INCORPORATING WALVIS BAY INTO NAMIBIA. FOURIE GAVE NO HINT OF ANY PERSONAL PIQUE OF HIS OWN EXCEPT WHEN DESCRIBING SOUTH AFRICA'S CHAGRIN AT BEING PRESENTED WITH A NONNEGOTIABLE RESOLUTION TEXT AFTER HAVING HEARD REPORTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME TIME THAT SOMETHING WAS BEING COOKED UP ON WALVIS BAY.

5. WE PARTED IN A SOMBER MOOD WITH THE FEELING THAT THERE SEEMED LITTLE MORE THAT COULD BE DONE. SCOTT NOTED THAT OUR RESPONSE WAS AN INTERIM ONE, BUT I SAID TO FOURIE THAT IT WOULD BE DISHONEST OF US TO LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT A FULLER REPLY WOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, WALVIS BAY  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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